

Dear Life,

From the moment I was born, I knew one thing was real:
I fell in love with you.

A love so deep I gave you my all, from my achievements and accomplishments to my failure and mistakes.

As a three year old boy, I began preschool and couldn't imagine the end of the tunnel which would represent senior year graduation.

But I ran through every playground and through every grade. You asked for my effort and energy and I gave you my heart because it came with so much more.

I played through the pain, not because of the challenge. I played through the blood, sweat, and tears because it was what I was taught. I would stay in the yard and come home when the streetlights came on. Not because it was time for bed, but because my grandma had called me in.

I did everything from play sports to hang out with friends because those things made me feel as alive as I have ever been.

Walden gave a middle school and high school his last challenges and dream. I will always love you for the memories. But sadly we can't share memories for much longer. This year is all I have left to give. My body can take the stress, my mind can take the lack of sleep, but my heart knows it's time to go.

And that's okay with me. I'm ready to let you go and start another chapter in my life. I want you to understand that now so that we can savor every last moment together. The laughs and love to the tears and heartbreak. We've simply given each other all we have left to give.

And we both know, no matter where I go next I'll always be a Jaguar and a Walnut. With the big heart, notebook in my folder, and pencil in my hands.
February... March... April... May... June...

Love you always,
Santana Sanchez

Based off of "Dear Basketball" by Kobe Bryant

Thank you Grandma Sanchez, Grandma Wilson, Mom, Sage, DJ, Nash Jr, Coel, Tony, Daniel, Manny, Javier, Antonia, and Cassie for all the memories and being there for me over the years.
I will always love you.